



NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

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Joseph A. Gowers
Remedial Project Manager
U.S Environmental Protection Agency, 290 Broadway, New York, NY 1007
Email: gowers.joe@epa.gov

March 2, 2020

RE: Ringwood Superfund Site Cleanup Plan

Dear Mr. Gowers,

We are concerned that EPA's proposal to address contaminants at the Ringwood Superfund site will not effectively protect the people of Upper Ringwood from the toxic chemicals there. Hazardous chemicals found at the site like lead, arsenic, cobalt, PCE, TCE, have created a witch's brew in the mines. In their plan, the EPA is proposing a small pump and treat system. The only way to remove toxins out of water is to remove the paint sludge and get a larger pump and treat system. EPA's plan to pump in oxygen into the water will take time and may not work. We should not be experimenting on the community. Pollution the Ringwood Superfund site has already impacted the community's health and safety.

EPA need to implement a full cleanup plan because their current proposal will not clean up the contamination there. Contamination from the Ringwood Superfund site has already impacted state land and groundwater. There is a lot of contamination on or leaking into Ringwood State Park and it is not being cleaned up. Toxic chemicals from the site, 1, 4 dioxane are coming out of springs into streams that go into the Wanaque Reservoir, which provides drinking water for three million people. These chemicals are going into Mill Brook and Sally Pond in Ringwood State Park. These are C1 streams and Highlands water. We believe the contamination from the mines going into the streams violates surface water quality standards. It also violates RCRA and New Jersey's own groundwater cleanup standards.

EPA's experiment for their clean-up plan will not work. What the agency must do is to clean up the paint sludge down the mine shaft and around the surface, seal out the leaks, and build a comprehensive pump and treat system that will remove the contamination. The people in Upper Ringwood and the 50 families are living on top of a Superfund site with vapor intrusion inhalation and chemicals impacting their health. There's over a billion gallons of water that is contaminated in this area. Arsenic and lead have already been found at the Church of Good Shepard in Ringwood. There has been a tremendous amount of health problems already from the contamination and it will just get worse unless more testing and an effective cleanup plan is implemented. This nightmare for the people of Upper Ringwood has gone on for over 40 years. If the EPA cannot effectively clean up the area, they should have Ford buy out the community and move them somewhere else.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to call me at (609) 558-9100.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Tittel".

Jeff Tittel

Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club